

Saturday Gazette.
Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.
WM. F. LYON, Editor and Proprietor.
CHAS. W. DAVIS, Associate Editor.
OUR PRINCIPAL OFFICE is next door to the POST OFFICE in Bloomfield.

The Saturday Gazette.
BLOOMFIELD AND MONTCLAIR.

An independent weekly journal of LIT-ERATURE, EDUCATION, POLITICS, GENERAL NEWS AND LOCAL INTERESTS.

All public and local questions, including political and social, sanitary and reformatory, educational and industrial topics will be clearly presented and fully and fairly discussed.

It is intended and expected to make it not only readable and interesting to the general reader, but of special value to citizens of the county and of real importance to every resident of Bloomfield, Montclair and Caldwell.

Nothing will be admitted to its columns that is unworthy of cordial welcome to every family circle.

Settled Clergymen in the county and all Public School Teachers in the county will receive the paper gratuitously by sending their address.

It should prove a valuable medium for advertisers. Our weekly circulation extends to every part of Essex county, and considerably elsewhere. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS will be received in Montclair, by E. Madison; in Caldwell, by M. Harrison; in Verona, by W. L. Scott; in Newark, by W. H. Winans, 445 Broad street, and at our office in Bloomfield, or by mail to Wm. F. Lyon, Editor, and Proprietor, Bloomfield, N. J.

TO SUBSCRIBERS

Subscribers who have not paid their subscriptions for the present year will confer a favor by enclosing the same to Wm. F. Lyon, Bloomfield. The \$2.00 subscriptions received for the second volume expired on the 14th of Feb. Their renewal requires \$1.75 to be paid, which will run to the end of the present volume in December next.

Any subscriber is entitled to have an extra copy sent to any address, by the payment of \$1.00. We hope many will avail themselves of this offer. Our CALDWELL readers will be gratified with the increased interest for their village which our columns indicate. We hope to receive a large accession to our subscription list there and also in VERONA. The Postmasters have consented to take the names and money and forward them to us. We hope our friends everywhere will rally to our support and encouragement by prompt responses.

PRIMARY MEETING.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS MEETING—FIRST PRINCIPLES.

The business transacted at the two political meetings of citizens held week before last created no little dissatisfaction at the time, and as the questions raised were not settled, it seems necessary to recur to them again while the circumstances and bearing of them are fresh in the public mind.

In our issue of the 7th. inst. we think we showed most clearly, in our report of the Primary Meeting, that the accounts, of the town, as read to the meeting, indicated a very loose and unsafe way of keeping and accounting for the large sums of money (over \$80,000) paid into the hands of town officers by its citizens as tax payers. It all goes, in the first instance, into the Collector's hands, for which he of course gives receipts to those who pay him. All the money is in his custody until it is called for by a warrant from the Town Committee, or from the School trustees, or from the Poor Master, or, perhaps, (for we do not know) from the County Controller or Chamberlain. He is not, as far as we can learn, accountable to any one except the citizens at their town meeting, and we all know that he made no report there. The Chairman of the Town Committee informed us that the Committee had no authority over him and that neither the Collector's accounts nor any other of the accounts were audited. The Poor account of \$3,000 voted has been subject to no supervision, or counter check, it being under the sole control and disbursement of the Overseer of the Poor. The Contingent Fund of \$3,500 voted, has been subject to the Town Committee's disposition with no counter check. The Road appropriation of \$10,000 voted, and the Cross-walk of \$500, and the Public Grounds of \$500, and the Side-walk grading of \$1,500 have also been disbursed by the Town Committee with no counter checks and no explanations or detailing expenditures. These are only a few of the accounts, but are they not enough to make good our position that the accounts are loosely kept? We do not for one moment impeach the integrity and honest purposes of our town officers; we have no reason to doubt that, and we unhesitatingly declare that we believe them upright and honorable, but they are not infallible. We may reasonably question, in any case, their judgment, their discretion, their memory. And if we even had perfect confidence in their superiority in all these respects, is not any reason why we should not have a right and a wish to know what they have done under the trust reposed in them, and with the money confided to them? Would any incorporated company, or any business house, or any Court of Equity or even any private individual, be satisfied with any such returns for confidence placed and treasure entrusted? Allow that we have been fortunate in the selection of trust-worthy men and in the tenacity with which they hold on generally to

their offices, are we sure that the town will continue to have such good luck? It is better to adhere to right principles. It is not wise to experiment, but do business on sound, well established business principles. And then, we insist upon it, it is both right and safe and wise, that those who appoint the stewards and entrust them with their treasures should steadily demand from their agents a full, clear and well authenticated account of their stewardship. We defer till another week intended remarks on the Republican Caucus Meeting.

THE LATE TOWN ELECTION.

Bloomfield is rightly said to be "an easy-going place," whatever that may mean. Her people are not only peaceful but they don't like to take any trouble. They seem predisposed to quietude, and would rather suffer wrong than to take much trouble to right themselves; they would bear a good deal of imposition rather than endure the excitement of railing at it, or attempting to put it down. Burglaries rarely occur here; we don't just know why, for we are sure very little effort would be made to recover the stolen property or arrest the villain, as it would involve appearance at court and considerable nervous trepidation.

We speak of native citizens, who, being largely in the majority, give of course the character to the place. New comers may in time be numerous enough to work a change. Such instances as that of Mr. Broughton's tenure with a sneeze, the other night—his seizure of his belt—his hurdle race after him, and his final escape cannot be frequent here until we secure a larger proportion of Yankee or Knickerbocker blood and pluck in our citizenship.

These remarks are not to be considered as disparaging but as explanatory of the apathy which stays the hand of progress and improvement, and acquiesces in admitted wrongs because it costs some pains and trouble to establish the right. Our readers who were aware of the force perpetrated in the canvass of votes at our late town election will readily understand the application and fitness of the foregoing reflections.

Considerable indignation was manifested when the many that felt an interest in that election discovered that in violation of the law the ballot box was in the hands of candidates for office; that they, unauthorized by adequate appointment and unsworn to responsibility, put their hands into the box, drew out and read the ballot as they should interpret and tally as they should hear—and this continued through six or eight weary hours.

Who should doubt that our virtuous community would instantly demand that such an election should be set aside and a new election ordered? But the little flurry of dissatisfaction was over come or allayed by a general feeling of unwillingness to take any course that would imply a doubt of the uprightness and infallibility of the actors in the farce.

The principles involved in this matter are too momentous and too sacred to be thus trifled with. We feel compelled to record our personal dissent from this discreditable proceeding.

HOME MATTERS.

BLOOMFIELD.

Range of Thermometer at Bloomfield Centre. March 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 7 a.m. 14° 22° 28° 20° 34° 44° 50° Average through the day.

18° 28° 31° 35° 42° 52° 50°

A full attendance of the Officers and Managers of the Ladies' Relief Committee of Bloomfield, is requested at the next meeting, to be held at the residence of Mrs. Samuel Carl, on Tuesday the 24th inst. at 3 o'clock P. M.

Mrs. R. N. DODD, Sec'y.

Treasurer's Report of Ladies' Relief Society for week ending 17th March, 1874.—Receipts, John H. Calmus, \$1; or, \$5. Disbursements, \$65.53. Mr. I. Cairns two donations of groceries.

Miss A. L. WARD, Treas'r.

An Entertainment will be given by the ladies of the First Presbyterian Church, at the Parsonage, on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, March 25th and 26th. Supper on the restaurant plan from 6 to 10 o'clock on both evenings. Admission 10 cents.

ECCLIAN.—This Society held their regular semi-monthly meeting on Monday evening last. Though the membership was not as fully represented as could be desired, yet the meeting was exceedingly interesting and profitable. The member appointed as Critic upon the former meeting, read a just and able paper. Then followed a well arranged programme, the closing feature of which was an essay by Mr. John Baldwin upon the "Transit of Venus," provoking interesting remark and discussion.

The Legislature has passed a bill incorporating the Mabel Sociable of Bloomfield. Also, empowering the Methodist Church of Bloomfield to sell real estate.

MONTCLAIR.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—Mr. C. W. MILES' proposal to make a hard road on Phillips Avenue from his Southern line to Bloomfield Avenue has developed a spirit of needed improvement that proves infectious. Dr. Plinkham has made an earnest move to interest the people in having the good work carried on around the corner on Church street, at least as far as the crossing to the Presbyterian Church. Wm. Jacobus offers to hold the list with a round sum and it will be liberally supported by others. When these two works are completed, that central corner will indeed be one of the centres of attraction in this beautiful village.

EXCHANGE OF PULPITS.—Rev. A. H. Bradford, pastor of the Congregational Church here, with the cordial assent of his people, has agreed to exchange pulpits with Rev. J. D. Eaton, pastor of the Congregational Church of Portland, Oregon, for some four or six months after the first Sabbath in May. The proposition originated with Mr. Eaton, who has personal reasons for wishing to spend a few months at the East, and as Mr. Bradford's people feel that he needs a little recuperating travel and respite, it is thought to be a very pleasant arrangement for both Ministers, without working any special detriment to either church. We hear Mr. Eaton spoken of as an able preacher and an agreeable pastor.

CONTEMPLATED SALE.—On the 2nd of April Mr. Hanning proposes to sell at auction 16 splendid lots of land on Valley Road and Central Avenue.

CASUALTY.—Samuel Bolin, a colored man in the employ of Taylor Bros. & Co., was caught between some cars on Monday last and slightly injured.

CONNECTION.—In the notice of the Kindergarten in last issue, the reception hours for visitors should have read on Friday mornings from 9 to 12.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

EQUABLE TAXATION.—Our Correspondent, E. R. M., in his able communication, in another column, opens again a subject of grave importance to our citizens, as well we presume in Montclair as in Bloomfield. Americans will bear any just burdens equally distributed, but their early education and life long professions compel them to protest resolutely against the imposition of excessive taxes unnecessarily levied or inequally and unfairly apportioned. This question is not new in our columns. Our readers will remember several articles upon it in the GAZETTE last year. We thank our esteemed correspondent for his timely, well written and logical communication, which we trust will receive, as it deserves, the earnest consideration of all thoughtful citizens. Let the subject be discussed. We venture to suggest the queries—Who approves the properties of the town? On what principle and by what rules does he discriminate between the land comprised in a thirty acre lot, or a fifty acre lot, and several two acre lots, located between them, and all in the Lamp District? Why should owners of large tracts whose pride or cupidity prompt them to hold on to their lands—farms they would have the Assessor call them—escape the same relative valuation that smaller adjoining properties are assessed?

We will gladly admit any fair statements and discussions on this important subject.

CALDWELL.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

CALDWELL, March 14, 1874.

Quite a flurry has been created here, of late, by the proposed division of the township. The movement, however, lacks the inherent power of practicality, and, on this account, I think, will fail of accomplishing its object. "Secession" is not a popular delusion hereabouts. Some how or other, there is nothing euphonious in the ring of the word, nor promising melody in its practical development. It has a harsh, grating sound to the ear, even when pronounced with all the patriotic elegance which distinguished its evanescent history in '61. The fact is, a new Township here, like the "Southern Confederacy," is only a creature of mistaken fancy. It may have an existence in the imagination but will not be recognized in the County Record for a long time to come. Beside, if I am correctly informed, its conception is merely the work of a few, who do not represent the feelings or interest of the majority. The question submitted to the popular vote of the township, would lose even the significance that now attaches to it. Neither would such a vote, affirmatively sustained, result advantageously to the newly-created town. What, then, is the object contemplated by this movement? Is it to secure for the seceding parties a lower rate of taxation? A seemingly practical idea providing they desire to ignore all public improvements and be content with the primitive condition of their fathers. But this is not progress, nor is it compatible with the spirit of the times.

Caldwell township is doing well enough with its present boundary lines. It is the nursery of good schools, good roads and all other important public improvements which add to the material prosperity of a district. We should let well enough alone, at least, for the present.

VERONA.

On Sunday last the beautiful M. E. Church at Verona was formally dedicated. The morning dawned with a hopeful promise of a lovely day. Nor were the expectations thus inspired doomed to disappointment. A cloudless sky and balmy air lent an additional charm to the occasion. With the attractive little church the sun shone brightly, reflecting a soft mellow light on its beautiful decorations within. Long before the hour announced for the exercises to commence the church was crowded to its utmost capacity; and a more intelligent and attentive congregation I have seldom seen in my rural wanderings. The pastor, Rev. E. V. King, looked as smiling as a man ought to look who has accomplished a great work. Promptly to the hour fixed for services to commence, Bishop James and D. P. Kidder, D. D., entered the church and took their seats behind the sacred desk. The sermon was delivered by the venerable Bishop from Colossians, 1st Chapter and 28th verse. "Whom we preach, warning

every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." The sermon was argumentative, logical and convincing, replete with eloquence and power, and produced a profound effect during its delivery. At the close of the sermon a very liberal donation was subscribed towards liquidating the debt on the church. Surely this church has inaugurated a new epoch in its history that must be flattering to those associated with it. "Long may it wave!"

ESSEX, JR.

For Saturday Gazette.

BLOOMFIELD MY SPECIALTY.

MR. EDITOR.—You ask for communications illustrative of facts and characteristics of our town. I should like to respond and feel to attempt it though I have a modest distrust of my ability in that line. I am more used to other tools than the pen, except in the way of letter writing, and I have no ambition to see my "pen photograph" in the papers. But the cause you have undertaken is a good one and lies very near our hearts and as your GAZETTE has a considerable circulation beyond the limits of this town I don't see why we should not all try to aid you in promoting the knowledge of it and of its attractions as extensively as possible.

Besides for my justification in appearing in print, I must tell you that Bloomfield is my specialty. I mean that it has been my study for—well no matter how many years, for I was born here. It has occupied my thoughts and exercised my tongue more than any other town, and I have dreamed of it in my slumbers times without number. In my regards of course it has the preference to any other village, far or near. In my judgment too it stands unrivalled in most respects by other towns.

It is not without its history. She points with pride to her revolutionary names and to General Washington's sojourn here for a few days during those times that tried men's souls. She remembers with satisfaction her contribution of officers and men who warred valiantly for our dearest rights in the second war with Great Britain. And in the late rebellion, did any other town surpass her in the prompt patriotism and heroic valor of her sons? The marble monuments in the cemetery hardly will hand their names down to posterity.

Nor has she any reason to be ashamed of the scholarly minds, and professional men, and successful merchants, and manufacturers that hail from this blooming plain. Of its educated and cultured society, which will certainly compare with any other town, I count at least forty that are College bred.

Few villages have been more distinguished for superior schools which have left their lasting impression upon our population; and though of late there has been less encouragement afforded for private schools, our Public and High School is rapidly advancing to the front rank, and will soon supply all desirable educational facilities.

The topography of this village is peculiarly pleasing. A beautiful valley of some eight miles in length here expands for three miles into a plain of half a mile wide, forming a level for the compact part of the village. Here the old town stands. On either side of this plain the hills rise with a graded slope to the height of, I should say, a hundred or a hundred and fifty feet above the plain of the village. These hill sides and tops furnish most beautiful Villa Sites which in many instances have been improved by the residences stretching along on the West Side from Chestnut Hill along Ridgewood Ave., including twenty-five or thirty delightful homes. And on the East Side from near "The Canal Place" almost to Watsegg, including about as many more. These elevated sites command magnificent views and are all within a few minutes walk of the Centre which embraces the Schools, Churches, Stores, Post Office and Rail Road Stations.

There are two streams that traverse the Valley supplying a most rare and useful water power and inviting the establishment of manufactories. The Morris Canal also passes through the whole length of the town.

MR. EDITOR, I did not intend to spin this out so long and yet I see I have not said much to the purpose. I hope others will write of the picturesque scenery, of the romantic walks and fine drives, of the unsurpassed salubrity of the climate, of the facilities of three Rail Roads, two daily mails and telegraph, and of our short distance from the cities of Newark and New York, &c.

Yours truly
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In the Thibet district 100,000 persons, all of whom were in an emaciated condition, made application for relief within the last ten days.

"UNEQUAL TAXATION—WHERE REFORM IS NEEDED."

EDITOR OF SATURDAY GAZETTE.—While you, Mr. Editor, with the aid of correspondents and co-laborers are proclaiming the advantages and desirability of Bloomfield as a place of residence, along with the same end in view to present one of the principal obstacles to development and progress that is hindering this town from obtaining its proper status.

It has no doubt occurred to you that now if ever is the time for the towns and villages in close proximity to New York to hold out every inducement to outsiders to locate among us, from the fact that there is a prospect of the system of rapid transit being soon established in the city, which if successful will turn the tide of travel in other directions than the route leading to Bloomfield and Montclair.

If all the hills and valleys in this vicinity are to be dotted with the abodes of taste and refinement and the wilderness made to blossom like the rose, as so many are fond of predicting, it would behoove us to be up and doing if we do not want the great city to get a corner on us by inaugurating a condition of things that shall be prejudicial to our interests.

It would seem that the most difficult feature to overcome in all growing towns is the tendency of landholders and speculators to demand extortionate prices for real estate. There is an abundance of land for all who wish to build and there are enough that want to buy. The difficulty consists in making their ideas coincide as to the price to be paid. Each party has a theory of his own in this respect, which is not easily shaken; as Pope's couplet aptly expresses it:

"Our judgments are as our watches, none go just alike, yet each believes his own."

There are hundreds at this moment who would like to locate in such towns as Bloomfield and who are willing to pay a fair equivalent for lots but will not part with the extravagant rates demanded. Speculation has done much to put an imaginary value upon land, and cause dealers to strive to realize a fancy price, but this mismanagement of town affairs under the form of "unequal taxation" is the stumbling block that has done the greater part of the mischief that has resulted in the stand still policy which governs so many of our towns. Why land that is worth thousands of dollars per acre should be taxed one eighth of its value, while a part that is sold for building lots is rated at one half, is a question that many are asking in the various towns and villages roundabout us. People are beginning to see the injury this one sided system has brought in its train. To be sure these poor fellows who own from fifty to one hundred thousand dollars worth of this kind of property tell us they cannot afford to be taxed as others are, because farming does not pay heavy dividends, neither does a heavy stock of goods in store or manufactory pay much unless kept moving, nor costly houses and elegant furniture give large returns, yet the assessor generally pays them his compliments. These gentlemen also tell us that if they were assessed on an equal footing with others, the taxes would eat them up, as they could only sell a few lots and could not find a market for the larger part of their possessions. When they talk in this manner, they mean they could not realize the fancy price they imagined their land was worth. For the benefit of these parties it may here be stated that in places where the system of equal taxation is practiced no one has yet been swallowed, but a little more anxiety to sell has been engendered and a healthy competition established as in all other business which has resulted in benefiting the towns and themselves by increasing the value of their land.

Again these parties say: suppose a poor widow is left with a large farm, with no other income than that derived from the cultivation of the soil; would it not be hard to exact the full measure in such cases. In answer to this supposititious case it might be suggested that land within ten or twenty miles of the metropolis of America and situated near a thriving town is too valuable to be used for farming purposes and that if the poor widow must farm she could exchange one acre of valuable land for twenty that would answer all the requirements of a farm much better than the gravelly soil of this section of New Jersey. O she could sell the land and live in comfort on the proceeds, but the poor widow would like to retain her hold upon the acres like all the other cornorants until the value should so increase that some one as Astor or a Rothschild would be able to purchase a building site (may all poor widows be as badly off as the above mentioned one is the sincere wish of the writer of this article). Other agreements and

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theories are advanced by land owners to show why they should be favored, but such arguments are the purest sophistry and not entitled to a moment's consideration. The theory of equal taxation on all property (that of churches and educational institutions excepted) is the only true one.

The fact is patent to all that if the many acres of valuable land go comparatively free of property must make up the balance by having its assessments increased—not only bearing its own burdens but those of its rich neighbors, and besides losing the increase that would be attained if all were compelled to assume their just liabilities. One might suppose if any were able to pay a just rate of taxation, those whose lands have increased in such a ten fold ratio within a few years would be the last ones to grumble at this equitable proposal. It is time that some step in the right direction were taken in this matter to remedy this universal evil, the amount that would be collected is only a trifling consideration compared with the good results that would ensue, as things are conducted now, desirable parties are driven to other localities where they have adopted a more equal basis of taxation, and they are securing the advantages of the development and progress that is being instituted and which we are justly entitled to share in common with others. But Mr. Editor I am trespassing on the space allotted for articles of this description and upon your good nature, my pen is like some of the Land owners, when it gets hold of a good thing it don't know when to let go. What is your opinion in this matter, in your fearless championship of all that tends to growth and improvement? I am sure you will give your assent to the view expressed.

E. R. M.

HARPER.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE for March contains Nineteen Articles, and over Seventy Engravings.

"The Light Houses of the United States"—Charles Nordhoff. With thirteen illustrations. "Alicia"—Elizabeth Akers Allen. "The Chevalier Bayard"—James Grant Wilson. With four illustrations. "Bermuda"—Christiana Rounds. With fifteen illustrations. "Archibald Constable and his Friends"—A. G. Constantine. With 12 illustrations. "Mother and I"—A Love Story for Girls.—Dinah Mulock Craik. With three illustrations. "Peru"—"Columbus"—Walt Whitman. "Observations in the United States"—Prof. J. E. Nourse. With seventeen illustrations. "The Living Link"—Prof. James de Mille. With three illustrations. "The Wrights and Wrongs of Semens"—Charles Nordhoff. "The new opera of 'Aida'."—a performance. "The wonderful 'Natural Bridge' and 'James River, above Rope Ferry'."—C. Mettias, a French artist, has an ideal picture of "Poland," a full-page picture representing a woman, shackled, bare footed, seated amid snow and ice, crushed down with sorrow, but not subdued. Fritz Paulsen contributes a full-page picture, artistic and beautiful in all its details, "Her Treasure," showing the interior of a chamber, with a group of ladies standing about a cradle, in which there is a sleeping infant. "The Wolf traced Shepherd" is a fine picture by Dore. "Loving Out a Town," is a child-like picture, eminently life-like, by John S. Davis. Specht contributes two magnificent cuts of animal life, one representing "English Greyhounds," and the other "Wild Boars," a fine contrast between domestic and wild animals. An excellent portrait of Annie Louise Cary, in the character of America, in the new opera of "Aida," embellishes this number. Another large portrait picture represents "Goethe at Home," in the chamber where he spent his childhood. "The Return of the Exile," by T. E. Rosenthal, is a beautiful picture which depicts an incident in the life of a Spaniard, who returned to his castle to find it in ruins.

The literary contents do not fall behind the pictures in number and interest. "The Last Hour," a charming story of "The Two Artists," Diego Velazquez and Miguel Cervantes; "Somebody's Baby," a poetical "Tribute" to the late J. R. Thompson, the Southern poet; an interesting story, "And He shall be Thy Master," by Mrs. Emily E. Ford, wife of the publisher of the New York Tribune, "Two Drowned Ophelias," "I would not, if I could," "Winter in Canadian Forests," "The Temptation," "The Land of the Dakotas," "The Departments of 'Music,' 'Drama,' 'Literature,' and 'Art,' are well filled. The editorial articles in this number consist of "Poland," "Views in Virginia," "Return of the Exile," "The Wolf traced Shepherd," "Development of Animals," and "Goethe at Home." Subscription price \$5, including chronos "The East" and "The West." James Sutton & Co., publishers, 58 Maiden Lane, New York City.

THE SCIENCE OF HEALTH.—An excellent number of this most useful publication, and one that should be read carefully by all who value that which is so essential to their well-being—Health. It contains How to Get Well and Keep Well, the Mother's Nursing Work; Disease and its Treatment; Sanitary Impurities; Popular Physiology, Illustrated; A Remedy for Tobacco Using; How to Eat and How to Digest; Instincts About Food; Seasonable Recipes; House-Work Hints; Dietetic Alcohol and Hygienic Tobacco; Or What are We Made? Apples and Phosphorus, with many short instructive paragraphs. Answers to Correspondents; and Voice of the People, \$2.00 a year.

The Baldiver authorities announce their intention of closing up cigar stores on Sunday.

NEWS ITEMS.

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It would seem that the most difficult feature to overcome in all growing towns is the tendency of landholders and speculators to demand extortionate prices for real estate. There is an abundance of land for all who wish to build and there are enough that want to buy. The difficulty consists in making their ideas coincide as to the price to be paid. Each party has a theory of his own in this respect, which is not easily shaken; as Pope's couplet aptly expresses it:

"Our judgments are as our watches, none go just alike, yet each believes his own."

There are hundreds at this moment who would like to locate in such towns as Bloomfield and who are willing to pay a fair equivalent for lots but will not part with the extravagant rates demanded. Speculation has done much to put an imaginary value upon land, and cause dealers to strive to realize a fancy price, but this mismanagement of town affairs under the form of "unequal taxation" is the stumbling block that has done the greater part of the mischief that has resulted in the stand still policy which governs so many of our towns. Why land that is worth thousands of dollars per acre should be taxed one eighth of its value, while a part that is sold for building lots is rated at one half, is a question that many are asking in the various towns and villages roundabout us. People are beginning to see the injury this one sided system has brought in its train. To be sure these poor fellows who own from fifty to one hundred thousand dollars worth of this kind of property tell us they cannot afford to be taxed as others are, because farming does not pay heavy dividends, neither does a heavy stock of goods in store or manufactory pay much unless kept moving, nor costly houses and elegant furniture give large returns, yet the assessor generally pays them his compliments. These gentlemen also tell us that if they were assessed on an equal footing with others, the taxes would eat them up, as they could only sell a few lots and could not find a market for the larger part of their possessions. When they talk in this manner, they mean they could not realize the fancy price they imagined their land was worth. For the benefit of these parties it may here be stated that in places where the system of equal taxation is practiced no one has yet been swallowed, but a little more anxiety to sell has been engendered and a healthy competition established as in all other business which has resulted in benefiting the towns and themselves by increasing the value of their land.